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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its third session

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005), in which the Peacebuilding Commission was requested to submit an annual report to the General Assembly for an annual debate and review. The report will also be submitted to the Security Council, pursuant to its resolution 1646 (2005), for an annual debate. The report reviews the work of the Peacebuilding Commission during its third session, from 23 June 2008 to 30 June 2009.

II. Work of the Commission

2. The end of the second session marked the expiration of the terms of membership of 24 out of 31 members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission. In the absence of agreement among the members of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the regional distribution of seats, the election of their respective members to the Organizational Committee, as well as the confirmation of members selected by the group of top providers of military and police personnel on the Organizational Committee, was postponed. Consequently, the terms of membership of the incumbent members from the aforementioned categories and the terms of office of the Chairperson, Yukio Takasu (Japan), and the Chairs of the various configurations were extended until the two organs were able to elect their respective members.

3. On 18 December 2008, and following an agreement reached among Member States and their respective regional groups on the distribution of seats until 31 December 2010, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/145, establishing that, beginning with the sixty-third session of the Assembly, the term of office for elected members of the General Assembly to the Organizational Committee shall

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begin on 1 January. The resolution invited all other bodies with members on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission to adjust the term of office of their respective members accordingly.

4. On 7 January 2009, the Commission elected its new Chairperson, Heraldo Muñoz (Chile), and Vice-Chairperson,[1] Park In-kook (Republic of Korea). The Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone configurations were chaired by Anders Lidén (Sweden), Jan Grauls (Belgium), Maria Luiza R. Viotti (Brazil) and Frank Majoor (Netherlands), respectively. The Working Group on Lessons Learned was chaired by Carmen Gallardo Hernández (El Salvador).

5. On 25 February and 29 June 2009, on the basis of consultations with the Governments of Sierra Leone and Burundi, the Organizational Committee elected the Permanent Representative of Canada as the new Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration and the Permanent Representative of Switzerland as the new Chair of the Burundi configuration. The election of the new Chairs of the Sierra Leone and the Burundi configurations followed the resignations of the Permanent Representatives of the Netherlands and Sweden.

6. The various configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission met regularly and addressed issues pertaining to their respective areas of competence.

A. Organizational Committee

7. During the third session, the Organizational Committee held on average one monthly informal meeting to address organizational and substantive matters. Formal meetings were convened only as necessary. The monthly meetings of the Chairs of the Commission configurations contributed to developing the agenda of meetings of the Organizational Committee and, in general, the Commission work programme. In particular, the meetings of the Organizational Committee provided an opportunity for the members to interact with the Peacebuilding Support Office and to contribute to the drafting process of the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304), as requested by the Security Council in its presidential statement of 20 May 2008 (S/PRST/2008/16). The Organizational Committee addressed that issue on five occasions during the period 15 September 2008 to 27 May 2009.

8. In addition, on 6 and 7 February 2009, the Organizational Committee convened its second annual informal retreat at the ambassadorial level, at which it focused on the value added and visibility of the Commission in the countries on its agenda; improving the Commission working methods; and building and strengthening partnerships. The Deputy Secretary-General inaugurated the retreat with a keynote address.

9. The Chairperson also undertook a number of activities on behalf of the members of the Organizational Committee, on which he reported regularly to the Organizational Committee and received feedback and suggestions from the membership.

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[1] The position of the second Vice-Chairperson was allocated to the Group of African States. At the time of issuance of the present report on 30 July 2009, the Group of African States had not submitted a nomination for this position.

Interaction with the United Nations principal organs

10. The Chairperson maintained regular and direct contacts with the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, with a view to enhancing mutual cooperation in the work and activities of the Commission and the principal organs.

11. On 9 and 21 October 2008, the Chairperson addressed the General Assembly and the Security Council, respectively, on the occasions of the annual debates held by the two organs on the report of the Commission on its second session (A/63/92-S/2008/417). The two debates offered an opportunity for the Commission to seek the views of the broader membership of the United Nations on matters of direct relevance to its work. The majority of the Member States viewed the progress achieved during the first two years of the Commission's operations as positive and promising, while pointing to the need to focus on country-specific tangible results as the Commission further developed its engagement with the countries on its agenda.

12. On 31 March 2009, the Chairperson represented the Commission at a high-level panel discussion dedicated to health challenges in crisis and post-crisis situations, which was organized by the Economic and Social Council. On 27 May, he hosted a working luncheon for the Chairs and the representatives of the permanent members of the Security Council.

Public awareness and visibility of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission

13. During the reporting period, the Chairperson also participated in several public events related to peacebuilding and to the work of the Commission, organized by a range of existing and potential actors, stakeholders and partners. On 25 August 2008, he was invited to make a presentation on the theme "Peacebuilding in Africa" in the European Forum Alpbach, Austria. On 10 September, the Chairperson was invited to participate as a panellist in the working luncheon on the theme "Addressing gaps in early recovery: Peacebuilding Commission perspective on next steps", which was organized by the Quaker United Nations Office and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung office in New York. On 18 November, he was also invited to address the informal breakfast discussion at the United Nations Peace Consolidation Benchmarking Experts Workshop. On 24 November, the Chairperson made a presentation at the University for Peace in Costa Rica. On 12 December, he addressed the inaugural session of the conference on the theme "Media and communications in peacebuilding", which was organized by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat.

14. On 27 and 28 March 2009, the Chairperson participated in a summit of progressive leaders, held at Viña del Mar, Chile. He also participated in several academic seminars and meetings with a view to raising awareness about the Commission. Among those were seminars on rule of law (New York, 21 April 2009) and on "Peacebuilding: the role of diasporas" (28-29 April 2009); as well as the sixth meeting of the Friends of Human Security (4 June 2009); the Stanley Foundation's informal retreat on the theme "Peacebuilding following conflict" (19-21 June 2009); and the luncheon on post-conflict peacebuilding organized by the International Peace Institute and the Permanent Mission of Uganda (30 June 2009).

15. The participation of the Chairperson in those public events was part of a broader outreach and advocacy strategy aimed at raising the profile and increasing the visibility of the Commission in different quarters and enhancing awareness about its work. Members of the Organizational Committee also organized events relating to the work of the Commission, including a round table hosted on 10 and 11 December 2008 by the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, on augmenting input from the South into peacebuilding theory and practice.

16. Furthermore, the Chairperson held a meeting and made further contacts with artist and pro-peace activist Yoko Ono (3 March) and with other philanthropists in order to seek their contribution to the work of the Commission and to the Peacebuilding Fund. The Chairperson also launched discussion among the members of the Organizational Committee on the creation of a group of friends of peacebuilding.

Relationship with the United Nations system, agencies, funds and programmes, regional and subregional organizations, and international financial institutions

17. In line with the Commission's role in improving the coordination of all relevant actors involved in peacebuilding efforts, especially within the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions, various activities were undertaken in order to strengthen the relationship between the Commission and those actors.

18. On 22 October 2008, the Chairperson, accompanied by the Chairs of country-specific configurations, met with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to confirm the importance that the Commission attached to enhancing cooperation with UNDP at the country level, in countries on the agenda of the Commission. On 29 October 2008, the Associate Administrator of UNDP addressed a meeting of the Organizational Committee on the role of UNDP in supporting programmes for employment generation and private sector development in countries emerging from conflict. The presentation by the senior UNDP official and the following interactive dialogue with the members of the Organizational Committee confirmed the importance of strengthening partnership and coherence with UNDP and other relevant United Nations funds, agencies and programmes in addressing the most critical peacebuilding priorities and activities for the countries on the Commission agenda.

19. On 19 November 2008, the Organizational Committee convened a follow-up meeting with a view to further examining a comprehensive approach to employment and income generation, as well as private sector development in post-conflict countries. Representatives of the United National Capital Development Fund at UNDP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Bank were invited to introduce concrete lessons from the field in post-conflict countries and to analyse the most effective policy tools leading to sustained employment generation and private sector development. On 7 January 2009, the Organizational Committee took note of the Chairperson's outcome of discussions from those meetings.

20. On 14 and 31 October 2008, the Chairperson and the President of the World Bank exchanged letters containing, inter alia, their respective views on the nexus between security and development as it related to the transition from conflict to peace. On 18 March 2009, the Organizational Committee convened an interactive

dialogue with the representatives of the European Community, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank on the impact of the global economic and financial crisis on countries emerging from conflict, with special emphasis on countries placed on the Commission agenda. On the same day, the Chairperson met with the Senior Vice-President of External Affairs of the World Bank on the cooperation between the World Bank and the Commission, within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed between the World Bank and the United Nations.

21. On 24 March 2009, during a visit to the headquarters of IMF and the World Bank in Washington, D.C., the Chairperson reflected to the authorities of those institutions the concerns expressed by the members of the Organizational Committee regarding the implications for the post-conflict countries of the current economic and financial crisis. Furthermore, during the same visit the Commission's keen interest in continuing to strengthen the evolving partnership with IMF and the World Bank was confirmed.

22. In addition and as part of the Commission strategy to strengthen its outreach to regional organizations, the Chairperson visited the headquarters of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. and met with its Secretary General.

23. The Chairperson also met with the Head of the United Nations Liaison Office with the African Union and later received an open invitation from the African Union Commission to meet with its authorities at its headquarters before the end of 2009.

24. On 4 and 5 May 2009, the Chairperson visited the headquarters of the European Commission and the Council of the European Union in Brussels, where he exchanged views with senior European officials and advocated for the continued engagement of the European Community in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in the countries on its agenda.

25. On 19 June, the Chairperson chaired a panel on the theme "Peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict" in an annual event entitled "Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and Member States: towards an interactive dialogue".

26. Furthermore, during the first half of 2009, the Chairperson held bilateral meetings with high-level officials dealing with peacebuilding from several Member States.

Consideration of broad strategy on implementing core mandates of the Peacebuilding Commission

27. The Organizational Committee continued to address possible approaches to enhancing its capacity to implement its core mandates and adapt to prevailing global realities and evolving approaches to critical peacebuilding priorities.

28. On 18 March 2009, the Organizational Committee convened a discussion on enhancing the capacity of the Peacebuilding Commission to fulfil its resource mobilization mandate. The discussion confirmed the need for the Commission to continue to enhance its capacity to engage traditional and non-traditional partners in order to address critical resource gaps in the countries on its agenda. In particular, the discussion underlined the importance of engaging the private sector and foundations as potential partners in channelling technical and financial resources to countries on the Commission agenda, in particular for employment and income generation. Furthermore, the discussion reiterated the need for the Commission to

build partnerships and to intensify its advocacy and awareness-raising activities with key partners, as well as its direct resource mobilization support for countries on its agenda.

29. On 29 April 2009, in connection with the mandate of the Peacebuilding Commission to improve coordination of all peacebuilding actors, the Organizational Committee held a discussion on the United Nations rule of law coordination strategy, with particular emphasis on the implications for countries on the Commission agenda. The Organizational Committee was briefed by the Director of the Rule of Law Unit, who underlined possible areas in which the evolving coordination strategy would contribute to the coherence and effectiveness of the Commission's advice on peacebuilding activities related to rule of law.

Procedure and working methods

30. The Organizational Committee continued to adopt and devise flexible practices on procedural matters that were not originally addressed in its provisional rules of procedure or its working methods, including the adoption of a new approach to meeting management in order to streamline its work under a predictable and stable workplan, while at the same time ensuring the allocation of the requisite resources to facilitate the conduct of its meetings. It also continued to take a number of organizational decisions through the silence procedure.

31. In the context of its annual retreat, the Organizational Committee addressed the connection between the Commission working methods and the ability to further enhance its value added and effectiveness. The Organizational Committee recognized the need to continue to introduce improvements in the working methods that did not necessarily require new mandates, such as modified approaches to the purpose and scope of integrated peacebuilding strategies, strengthening and diversifying the approach to resource mobilization, calibrating response to emerging situations in the field and harmonizing the work of the various configurations. In the course of various meetings, the Organizational Committee also discussed areas of improvements that might be addressed in the context of the upcoming mandated review in 2010, such as the nature and scope of its advisory role and the establishment of its agenda.

B. Burundi configuration

32. During the reporting period, there were a number of crucial developments in Burundi's peace process and peacebuilding efforts. In its third year of engagement with Burundi, the Commission focused on supporting those efforts, with particular emphasis on ensuring the durability of the peace gains and making such gains amenable to the country's socio-economic development needs.

33. From 21 to 23 October 2008, the Chair of the country configuration undertook a mission to Burundi in order to discuss with stakeholders the opportunities for and challenges of mutual engagements in the peacebuilding process. On the basis of the Chair's mission and consultations, the Burundi configuration adopted a workplan focusing on three main issues: (a) support to the peace process, notably on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Parti pour la libération du peuple Hutu-Forces Nationales de Libération (Palipehutu-FNL); (b) assistance to Burundi in creating an environment conducive to free, fair and transparent national elections

in 2010; and (c) support to refugees and land issues and socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants. In addition, the Peacebuilding Commission agreed to attach priority to two strategic issues: (a) improving the impact of the Commission on the ground, including through effective coordination of its members present in Burundi; and (b) efficient communication on the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi and its relationship with other complementary tools, such as support from the Peacebuilding Fund and the Burundi Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

34. On 10 December 2008, the Chair of the Burundi configuration briefed the Security Council on the Commission's engagement with the country, reiterating the priority plans for its support to the country. On 12 December 2008, the Burundi configuration addressed the developments in the peace process with the participation of the Facilitator of the Burundi peace process, Charles Nqakula. The Facilitator briefed the members on the outcome of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes region, which took place on 4 December 2008, and on the challenges relating to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the political integration of Palipehutu-FNL. Following his briefing, the members of the configuration confirmed their support to the efforts aimed at addressing those challenges and their readiness to contribute to the funding for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The Commission adopted the conclusions of the Burundi configuration (PBC/3/BDI/1) calling for urgent international support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and requesting, inter alia, that the Government develop a longer-term strategy for sustainable socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants, return refugees and internally displaced persons.

35. In the light of the developments in the peace process, the Chair was invited to the meeting of the Group of Special Envoys for Burundi, which took place on 16 and 17 January 2009 in Bujumbura. The Envoys issued a declaration expressing support to the peace process and calling on the parties to fulfil their respective commitments made in the Bujumbura Declaration. The commencement of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process on 16 March 2009 was an important development supported by the African Union Special Task Force, with funding from the Peacebuilding Fund and contributions of several members of the Commission. On 18 April 2009, the leader of Forces Nationales de Libération (FNL),[2] Agathon Rwasa, laid down his arms thereby effecting the separation of the movement's security arm and the registration of FNL as a political party.

36. On 4 February 2009, the Burundi configuration held the second biannual review of the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi. The review was led by the Government of Burundi and conducted on the basis of a consultative process involving a broad range of stakeholders in Burundi, including civil society, political parties and international stakeholders. Participants in the review agreed that a number of positive steps had been taken towards the full implementation of the Strategic Framework, including in the areas of implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement and the Bujumbura Summit Declaration; the efforts to professionalize the defence and security corps;

[2] The Palipehutu-FNL changed its name to Forces Nationales de Libération (FNL) in complying with the Bujumbura Summit Declaration and in conforming to Burundi's constitutional provisions for the registration of political parties (for example, prohibition of ethnocentric names).

the preparations for the national transitional justice consultations; and the involvement of women and youth in peace consolidation efforts. However, the review also noted a number of important remaining challenges that required attention and support from the Commission. Those challenges included outstanding elements of the peace process, the institutionalization of the political dialogue among stakeholders and the preparations for the forthcoming national elections, the consolidation of good governance and the efforts to strengthen rule of law and human rights, and the regularization of monitoring and reporting against established benchmarks. The Government of Burundi also urged the international community to deliver on the commitments made during the May 2007 donor round table. On 6 February 2009, the Commission adopted the conclusions of the second biannual review (PBC/3/BDI/3).

37. From 25 to 27 May 2009, the Chair undertook a visit to Burundi in order to follow up on progress and mutual commitments made in the implementation of the Strategic Framework. He concluded that the peacebuilding process in Burundi had entered a new phase following significant developments in the peace process. He noted, however, that the completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the preparation of a long-term socio-economic reintegration strategy would require attention and support from the Commission and that continued leadership of the Regional Initiative for Burundi in the Partnership for Peace in Burundi to monitor progress and provide the support required would be critical for the success of the peace process. He also noted that the national elections scheduled for 2010 presented an important opportunity to further consolidate peace and democracy in Burundi.

C. Sierra Leone configuration

38. During its third year of engagement with Sierra Leone, the Peacebuilding Commission focused on three primary objectives: (a) maintaining attention and reviewing progress in peacebuilding efforts; (b) broadening the donor base and enhancing the coherence of international assistance; and (c) supporting new or improving existing activities in peacebuilding priority areas. The Commission also provided advice to the Security Council on the establishment of a fully integrated office, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone, in October 2008.

39. In order to monitor progress in the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, adopted by the Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Sierra Leone in December 2007, the Commission held formal review meetings in June and December 2008. Those meetings were informed by progress reports developed jointly by the Government of Sierra Leone and its international partners. The meetings highlighted achievements to date and identified remaining challenges under each peacebuilding priority area. The recommendations and conclusions emanating from the meetings were transmitted to all relevant stakeholders in Sierra Leone, the principal organs of the United Nations and all international partners.

40. In addition to formal six-monthly review meetings, the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration convened strategic consultations with the representatives of the private sector, philanthropic foundations and international financial institutions in

order to mobilize additional support for peace consolidation efforts in Sierra Leone. The Chair's meetings with the representatives of IMF and the World Bank, in particular, reaffirmed the need for enhanced collaboration between the Commission and those institutions in preparation for the November 2009 Consultative Group meeting on Sierra Leone. The meetings also highlighted the negative impact of the global economic crisis on Sierra Leone and underscored the importance of continued resource mobilization efforts by the Peacebuilding Commission.

41. In the Chair's statement issued on 6 April 2009, the Commission welcomed the adoption of the Sierra Leone political parties' joint communiqué. The joint communiqué had been developed through an inter-party dialogue convened in response to incidents of political violence in Sierra Leone in March 2009. The Commission commended the Government and the opposition leaders on overcoming their differences and reaching agreement on a number of critical issues, including the role of the ruling and opposition parties, the setting up of mechanisms to investigate the March violence, and the strengthening of important democratic institutions, in particular the Parliament, the Political Parties Registration Commission, and the Independent Media Commission. The Commission also welcomed the contribution of international partners, particularly by the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone, in facilitating the inter-party dialogue and the adoption of the joint communiqué. Stressing the importance of timely follow-up to the agreements of the joint communiqué, the Commission called on all international partners to provide the needed financial and technical support.

42. As a follow-up to the adoption of the joint communiqué, the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration undertook a fact-finding mission to the country from 20 to 24 April 2009. During the visit the Chair held consultations with top Government officials, including the President, several cabinet ministers, leaders of the opposition parties, and representatives of the international community, the United Nations and civil society. The findings of the visit highlighted that Sierra Leone continued to make progress towards peace consolidation. However, the country's impressive democratic and peacebuilding gains were still fragile and required sustained international support. High levels of youth unemployment, widespread corruption, and the growing threat of illicit drug trafficking all raised the risk of relapse into conflict. Additional efforts were also needed to consolidate reforms in the justice and security sectors.

43. The Chair's visit also provided an opportunity to prepare for the Commission High-level Special Session on Sierra Leone, held in New York on 10 June 2009. The Special Session brought together senior representatives of Member States, the United Nations, the private sector and civil society. The primary objectives of the Special Session were: (a) to provide political support for the implementation of the political parties' joint communiqué; (b) to endorse the Agenda for Change of the Government of Sierra Leone as the core strategy guiding all future national and international development efforts; (c) to support the United Nations joint vision for Sierra Leone as an innovative approach to peacebuilding and mobilize financial resources for its implementation; and (d) to enhance the coordination and coherence of international support to Sierra Leone's peace consolidation efforts in line with the joint communiqué and the Agenda for Change and in advance of the forthcoming Consultative Group meeting on Sierra Leone.

44. The Special Session adopted an outcome document (PBC/3/SLE/6), which established the basis for a new and lighter form of engagement with Sierra Leone, and which aligned the Commission's work with the peacebuilding priorities identified in the Agenda for Change, namely good governance and the rule of law, and combating illicit drug trafficking and youth unemployment. The Commission further decided to advocate for greater subregional cooperation, as well as the promotion of gender and human rights, in peacebuilding activities. The Commission agreed to hold six-monthly review meetings to monitor progress in the peacebuilding priorities of the Agenda for Change, focus the attention of the international community on priorities requiring additional action, provide recommendations to all relevant actors on ways to overcome emerging challenges, and mobilize additional support for the Agenda for Change. The first review meeting would take place in December 2009.

D. Guinea-Bissau configuration

45. In the latter part of the first year of its engagement with Guinea-Bissau, the Commission focused on the finalization of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau and supporting the organization of legislative elections. In preparation of the Strategic Framework, the Guinea-Bissau configuration held three informal meetings and one formal meeting. The meetings provided the national and international counterparts an opportunity to contribute to the drafting of the document and ensured the full participation of key stakeholders in the process. On 31 July 2008, the Commission informally adopted the Strategic Framework subject to final review by the Government of Guinea-Bissau.

46. Following the change of Government in Guinea-Bissau in early August, the Chairperson of the Guinea-Bissau configuration visited the country from 10 to 12 September 2008 and met with the key national stakeholders. The fact-finding visit aimed at gaining first-hand experience in connection with the political developments in the country and exploring options for the continued engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission. During the Chairperson's interaction in Guinea-Bissau, all national stakeholders reiterated their commitment to the peacebuilding process in the country and considered the adoption of the Strategic Framework a priority. The Commission had agreed on the conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (PBC/3/GNB/1).

47. On 1 October 2008, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Guinea-Bissau formally adopted the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau (PBC/3/GNB/3). The Minister of Defence, Marciano Barbeiro, speaking on behalf of the Government by video link from Guinea-Bissau, stated that the Government and people of Guinea-Bissau were ready to assume responsibility for the implementation of the Strategic Framework. As agreed within the Framework, the cooperation of Guinea-Bissau with the Commission was based on national ownership, mutual accountability and inclusiveness. All stakeholders highlighted the importance of timely and effective implementation of the Framework, and stressed the significance of the legislative elections scheduled for 16 November 2008 for the consolidation of peace in Guinea-Bissau.

48. Following the adoption of the Strategic Framework, the work and engagement of the Commission focused on supporting the organization of the elections. Those

efforts resulted in securing funding for the elections in due time. As part of the advocacy role of the Commission, on 21 November 2008, the Guinea-Bissau configuration and the Sierra Leone configuration organized a high-level briefing by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Antonio Maria Costa, on the theme "Drug trafficking as a security threat in West Africa".

49. On 26 November 2008, following an armed attack against the residence of President João Bernardo Vieira shortly after the announcement of the results of the legislative elections, the Guinea-Bissau configuration condemned the use of violence and adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission on the current situation in Guinea-Bissau (PBC/3/GNB/4). While welcoming the successful organization of the elections on 16 November and the high level of participation of Bissau-Guineans, the Commission expressed its concern over the incident, stressing the need to ensure full respect for the results of the elections and the rule of law.

50. On 4 March 2009, following the assassinations of President João Bernardo Vieira and Chief of General Staff Tagme Na Waie, the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration issued a statement (PBC/3/GNB/5), joining the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council in condemning the assassinations and expressing her concern over the incidents. In the statement, the Chair reiterated the Peacebuilding Commission's continued support for peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau, underlining the importance for all stakeholders to maintain their commitments to the peace consolidation process.

51. In addition to advocacy and resource mobilization, the Guinea-Bissau configuration focused on security sector reform. On 25 March 2009, the Guinea-Bissau configuration held an informal meeting, connecting with the Government of Guinea-Bissau via video link. The Government was represented by the Minister of Defence, Artur Silva, who gave a presentation of the current political situation and developments in the security sector. On 15 April 2009, the configuration convened an informal meeting on security sector reform in order to highlight ongoing initiatives and review gaps and areas for coordination and collaboration among the various actors, as part of the preparation for a conference on security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau to be held in Praia, Cape Verde.

52. From 16 to 18 April 2009, the Chairperson of the Guinea-Bissau configuration visited the country for the first time since the swearing in of the new Government and met with interim President Raimundo Pereira, the members of the Government, the Chief of General Staff and the National Steering Committee for Peacebuilding. On 20 April 2009, the Chair represented the Peacebuilding Commission at the round table on the restructuring and modernization of the defence and security sector in Guinea-Bissau, organized in Praia. The round table identified key constraints, and short-term actions in the security sector reform process in Guinea-Bissau. On 11 May 2009, the Chairperson presented her findings from that visit in an informal meeting of the Guinea-Bissau configuration. The meeting was also apprised of the recommendations of the Integrated Task Force Technical Assessment Mission that visited Guinea-Bissau from 21 to 30 April 2009, and was briefed by IMF and the World Bank on their engagement with the country.

53. On 16 June 2009, shortly following the assassinations of Baciro Dabó, former Minister and a candidate in the presidential elections, and Helder Proença, former Minister and Member of Parliament, the Guinea-Bissau configuration issued a

statement (PBC/3/GNB/6) strongly condemning the killings and reiterating the continued support of the members of the configuration towards the consolidation of peace in the country. On 22 June 2009, the configuration convened an informal meeting to hear a briefing from the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, on his recent visit to Guinea-Bissau. The meeting also was briefed by the Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau, Joseph Mutaboba, on the political developments in the country. Based on those discussions, the Chairperson briefed the Security Council on the way forward and the areas in which the Commission could provide possible support to Guinea-Bissau in close consultation with national and international partners, such as national reconciliation, security sector reform, youth employment and the fight against illicit drug trafficking.

E. Central African Republic configuration

54. Upon the initiative of the President of the Republic, and in a letter dated 6 March 2008, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Francophonie of the Central African Republic requested the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission to place the Central African Republic on its agenda. The letter was forwarded to the Security Council on 10 April 2008.

55. On 30 May 2008, the President of the Security Council addressed the Chairperson of the Commission, requesting that the Central African Republic be placed on the Commission agenda and provide advice and recommendations to the Security Council on the situation in the country in the following areas: (a) establishment and conduct of an inclusive political dialogue; (b) action by the national authorities and support from the international community to develop an effective, accountable and sustainable national security sector system; and (c) restoration of the rule of law, including respect for human rights, and good governance in all regions of the country. On 12 June 2008, the Organizational Committee decided to place the Central African Republic on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, Ambassador Jan Grauls, was elected as Chair of the Commission's Central African Republic configuration.

56. In July 2008, the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration conducted an exploratory mission to Bangui, with a view to establishing initial contacts with national authorities and other relevant stakeholders on the ground, including the international community, civil society, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic and the United Nations country team.

57. On 8 October 2008, the Central African Republic configuration held its second formal meeting, at which the Minister of State for Planning, the Economy and International Cooperation of the Central African Republic, Sylvain Maliko, addressed the Commission and laid out his country's priorities for peacebuilding as follows: (a) reform of the security sector, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; (b) good governance and the rule of law; and (c) socio-economic advancement through implementation of development hubs. Those priorities were later endorsed by the Commission as the country's priorities for peacebuilding. The Commission identified the successful conclusion of the inclusive political dialogue

(which took place later, in December 2008 in Bangui) and the implementation of its recommendations as a cross-cutting priority. The Commission agreed that progress in all three priorities, in the context of achievements in the implementation of the conclusions of the inclusive political dialogue, was paramount for peace consolidation in the country.

58. From 30 October to 6 November 2008, a delegation representing the Peacebuilding Commission and led by the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration undertook a field visit to the country. The delegation met with Government representatives at all levels and political parties of the majority and of the democratic opposition; civil society, including the private sector; the diplomatic community; and the United Nations country team. The delegation also travelled to Paoua, Guinea-Bissau, a city that exemplified some of the key peacebuilding challenges facing the country.

59. From 22 January to 5 February 2009, a delegation from the Peacebuilding Support Office visited the country to facilitate inclusive consultations among all national and international stakeholders in preparation for the development of the country's strategy document. On 6 May 2009, following the successful completion of the consultative process, including a number of informal consultations of the Central African Republic configuration in New York, the Peacebuilding Commission adopted the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic (PBC/3/CAF/7).

60. Following the formal adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic, the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration undertook a mission to Bangui to present the Strategic Framework document to all national stakeholders, including Government officials, members of Parliament, the international community, civil society, representatives of the United Nations system and the press, with a view to further strengthening national ownership of the strategy and officially begin its implementation.

61. The Chair of the Central African Republic configuration also directed his effort at: (a) increasing and sustaining the attention of the international community to the situation in the Central African Republic; (b) mobilizing resources for the implementation of the country's Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding; and (c) supporting the coordination among stakeholders. Over the reporting period, the Chair also focused his efforts on sensitization and resource mobilization and, therefore, paid a number of visits to the European Commission and the Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation in Brussels, the World Bank and the Department of State in Washington, D.C., the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie in Paris, and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and several international non-governmental organizations in Rome. Particular attention was given to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, including through resource mobilization efforts, awareness-raising activities and participation in various coordination mechanisms on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

62. The Central African Republic also benefited from two allocations from the Peacebuilding Fund. The first allocation was made under the Fund's emergency window to support the inclusive political dialogue. A second allocation of $10 million was made through the Fund's second window, out of which $4 million was made available to launch the country's disarmament, demobilization and

reintegration programme. The Central African Monetary and Economic Community had pledged $16 million for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, of which the Government had received $10 million.

F. Working Group on Lessons Learned

63. During the reporting period, the Working Group on Lessons Learned continued to provide an informal platform for the Peacebuilding Commission to draw on the expertise of practitioners from within and outside the United Nations system, as well as from countries with certain experience in post-conflict peacebuilding, on critical peacebuilding priorities in the countries on the Commission agenda. The Working Group also continued to be guided by the specific recommendations made by Member States during its special session of 12 June 2008, in particular by strengthening the links with the work of the Commission configurations, the United Nations system and the larger peacebuilding community.

64. During the third session of the Commission, the Working Group held five meetings between 20 October 2008 and 28 May 2009, on lessons and good practices associated with: (a) the role of the United Nations in rule of law assistance; (b) regional approaches to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Great Lakes region of Africa; (c) the development of national capacity after conflict; (d) the coordination of the Peacebuilding Commission with regional and subregional organizations; and (e) sustainable community-based reintegration in post-conflict situations.

65. The Chair of the Working Group focused her summaries of those meetings on the key lessons shared by the experts on the respective issues and the possible linkages with the work of the country configurations. The summaries were widely disseminated to the United Nations peacebuilding community, including through the Commission website, the Peacebuilding Community of Practice and the Peacebuilding Initiative of the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research. Future summaries would also include more direct recommendations with even greater relevance to country-specific configurations.

III. Peacebuilding Fund

66. To date, all four countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission had received funding totalling $86 million, or 62 per cent of the allocated funds. The country configurations played increasingly important roles in providing strategic advice and guidance on priority-setting for overall peacebuilding funding and on the application of the Fund. An additional five countries had been declared eligible for the Peacebuilding Fund country programme (Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Nepal) and received a total of $45 million. In response to imminent threats to the peace process, additional funding for emergency projects, in the total amount of $8.4 million, was approved for projects in seven countries, namely Burundi, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Haiti, Liberia and Kenya. Most recently, the Secretary-General had declared the Democratic Republic of the Congo eligible for funding. The Peacebuilding Fund also collaborated with 15 in-country United Nations recipient organizations that managed the projects with the support of local implementing partners.

67. In addition to its regular briefings to the Fund donors, the Peacebuilding Support Office provided quarterly briefings to the Organizational Committee on global and country-specific activities and operations of the Fund during the respective briefing periods.

68. On the basis of operational experience and growing recognition of the potential of the Peacebuilding Fund in providing support for the peacebuilding process, there was room to further enhance the effectiveness and the catalytic impact of the Fund. To that end and on the basis of the earlier intention of the Secretary-General, the Peacebuilding Support Office, as fund manager, had commissioned an independent evaluation of the Fund undertaken by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in 2008. The OIOS evaluation concluded that the Fund had potential to fill a unique peacebuilding niche in the post-conflict arena. The evaluation also identified a series of management and operational challenges that required the attention of the Peacebuilding Support Office to ensure full implementation of the Fund's mandate.

69. In December 2008, in compliance with the terms of reference of the Peacebuilding Fund (A/60/984, annex), the Peacebuilding Support Office initiated a consultative process leading to the revision of the terms of reference of the Fund. The revised terms of reference, which were guided by the experience of the Fund in the four countries on the Commission's agenda, emphasized key principles for the Fund's operations, namely transparency, flexibility, operational speed, accountability, catalytic effect, effectiveness, needs-based allocation and national ownership.

70. On 17 June 2009, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/282, in which it noted that the broad objectives of the revision of the terms of reference for the Peacebuilding Fund were to enhance the capacity of the Fund to serve as a flexible, responsive and focused resource for peacebuilding support and to enhance and maximize the synergy between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Fund. The resolution also affirmed the respective roles of the General Assembly, the Commission and the independent Advisory Group to provide policy guidance on the use of the Fund to maximize its impact and improve its functioning. In order to operationalize the revised terms of reference, guidelines were being prepared by the Peacebuilding Support Office in close collaboration with an inter-agency task force.

71. It was expected that once operationalized, the revised terms of reference would allow the Fund to improve its efficiency, responsiveness and effectiveness in order to ensure that post-conflict countries benefited from the sustained attention and support of the international community.

IV. Observations and the way forward

72. The Commission has gained valuable experience through its engagement with the countries on its agenda. That experience will continue to inform the future work of the Commission, its interpretation of its advisory role and the implementation of its mandates in the countries on its agenda. The Commission's continuous engagement, through the Organizational Committee and its other configurations, with a wide range of partners, both within and beyond the United Nations system, has helped in maximizing the Commission's outreach and has fostered a greater understanding of the work of the Commission among its partners. Those

partnerships would add to the Commission's repertoire of knowledge and expertise, which would further facilitate the discharge of its mandate.

A. Coordination, coherence and partnerships

73. The United Nations is a key actor, but not the only one, engaged in post conflict peacebuilding. The United Nations has political legitimacy and the capacity to convene others, but it should strengthen coordination and cohesion with the multiple regional and international actors involved in peacebuilding. The Commission recognizes that planning and coordination is first and foremost a Government responsibility and requires the development of national capacities, with sustained support from regional and international actors. The Commission has continued to promote and support the need for effective coordination and coherence in order to maximize the impact of all peacebuilding efforts and help channel resources to critical peacebuilding priorities and to support related national capacities. The Commission has also continued to work towards building and strengthening partnerships, at the headquarters and country levels within the United Nations system, and with bilateral and multilateral partners, including donors, international financial institutions and regional and subregional organizations. The Commission will also encourage closer cooperation with complementary regional processes, including the African peer review of the New Partnership for Africa's Development mechanism. There has been progress in coordinating support to countries on the Commission agenda, and strengthened links with the World Bank are encouraging. However, additional efforts are still required to ensure that such links translate into effective collaboration, particularly at the country level.

74. In considering its experience, the Commission has noted that the existence of a single national peacebuilding strategy, which has been developed through a consultative process among all relevant partners at the country level, significantly helps facilitate coordination efforts. This is fully consistent with the Commission commitment to the core principles of national ownership, mutual accountability and sustained partnership. The Commission appreciates that the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304) has underlined these principles. The Commission will encourage further progress in aligning international support behind the common strategic and integrated framework for peacebuilding. National, regional and international partners need to be fully engaged in the development, monitoring and implementation of the common strategic framework for peacebuilding at the country level if a country is to have access to and make the most efficient use of the support it needs for peacebuilding.

75. The Commission will continue to work in close collaboration with the international financial institutions in order to ensure that the work of the United Nations system and the international financial institutions is undertaken within a shared strategic approach in countries on the Commission agenda, particularly in the areas of strengthening the functions of the State and the promotion of economic recovery. It will also continue to explore ways for creating greater synergy between its work and that of the various regional and international organizations involved in post conflict peacebuilding efforts.

B. Evolving engagement with countries on the agenda

76. Drawing on the lessons learned from its first three years, the Commission has recognized that its value added will be further enhanced through focused and demand-driven engagement with national actors, which would lead to sustained attention to the critical peacebuilding priorities and the promotion of an integrated approach to peacebuilding in the various phases of the post-conflict response of the United Nations.

77. The Commission has started discussions on how it can build on or make use of existing in-country assessments, strategy-setting processes and plans in countries on its agenda in order to ensure that peacebuilding priorities receive focused attention and support without generating high transaction costs for the national partners. In that regard, the Commission will continue to advocate for early and inclusive national-level engagement in post-conflict needs assessment.

78. The Commission has also begun to explore the possibility of diversifying the forms of its engagement with countries on its agenda, including through a possible multitiered approach. In that regard, advice could be provided on specific peacebuilding priorities on the basis of lessons drawn from the experience of other countries, and by mobilizing the contribution of experts, practitioners and national stakeholders who are engaged in peacebuilding efforts. The Commission will also continue to explore ways to simplify processes and streamline planning, monitoring and reporting tools, while maintaining their robustness. The Commission will also continue to work towards forging closer links between headquarters and the country concerned in taking forward key priorities.

C. Resource mobilization

79. The Commission recognizes that rapid and flexible funding, aligned to an agreed and prioritized strategy, is critical for successful peacebuilding. The Commission remains convinced that funding for peacebuilding should be viewed as an early investment in sustainable peace and development and, therefore, may require greater risk-taking than normal development funding.

80. The Commission has continued to address the challenges associated with the mobilization of predictable and sustained resources in order to address funding gaps for critical peacebuilding priorities in countries on its agenda, including through advocacy at headquarters and in capitals. At the same time, the Commission is exploring ways of engaging non-traditional partners, the diaspora, private foundations and the private sector in order to supplement the flow of official development assistance (ODA), and in particular to foster employment creation and economic recovery and growth. The Commission will continue to work towards broadening the base of countries willing to contribute financial and technical resources to countries on its agenda. In that regard, the Commission recognizes the need to encourage trilateral and South-South cooperation in critical peacebuilding areas identified by the countries concerned.

81. While the Peacebuilding Fund may provide only a limited share of the required financial resources for peacebuilding, it can play a critical role by becoming faster and more flexible and accepting a degree of risk. Therefore, the Commission will continue to support targeted Peacebuilding Fund disbursements of a catalytic nature

for key peacebuilding priorities identified by the countries on its agenda. In that regard, the Commission will continue to utilize the evolving capacity of the Peacebuilding Support Office to identify critical resource gaps for peacebuilding and will encourage the United Nations and the international financial institutions to develop coordinated measures to build national capacities for aid management and coordination as an integral element of a peacebuilding strategy.

D. Communications, outreach and greater visibility

82. The Commission notes the limited awareness about and some lack of understanding of its role, the evolving concept of peacebuilding and how the international community can best support peacebuilding, especially in the countries on its agenda. Even where there is some understanding about the role of the Commission, there is little awareness and much confusion about its role and links with the Peacebuilding Fund. This lack of understanding pertains equally to the capitals of its own members, the country-level actors and the populations in the countries concerned. This needs to be addressed if there is to be sustained and increased support for peacebuilding.

83. The Commission has recognized the need to further develop and adapt its outreach and advocacy activities through a number of communications means. This could include field visits (ideally coinciding with the biannual reviews), which could be used to promote the engagement of all stakeholders and for raising awareness of, and mobilizing support for, the peacebuilding process in the countries on its agenda. Moreover, the Commission has decided to explore outreach initiatives, such as the appointment of goodwill ambassadors, the establishment of a group of friends for peacebuilding and the convening of an annual high-level peacebuilding forum. The Commission would also encourage targeted outreach activities by its Chairs, members and the senior-most United Nations representatives in the field in support of the critical peacebuilding priorities.

84. The Commission will develop a targeted communications strategy that is flexible and adaptable in order to address the various actors and partners, such as national stakeholders, bilateral and institutional donors, regional actors and practitioners. This strategy, which should complement existing country-specific strategies, should also aim to build a strategic partnership with international and national media, encouraging them to take a focused approach to peacebuilding, thus helping to increase public understanding of both the challenges and successes of peacebuilding.

V. Conclusions

85. During the past three years, the Commission has consolidated its core advisory role and demonstrated increasing support for the countries on its agenda.

86. The Commission played an important advisory role in the development of the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304) and will continue to pursue the agenda outlined therein. The Commission welcomes the report and will support the implementation of its recommendations on strengthening the United Nations leadership in, and

coherent and integrated response to, post-conflict situations, enhancing financing for peacebuilding and building national capacities. The Commission will also consider engaging in the envisaged review to be undertaken to analyse how the United Nations and the international community can help to broaden and deepen the pool of civilian experts and volunteers for peacebuilding, giving particular attention to mobilizing more capacities from developing countries, especially women.

87. The envisaged review in 2010 of the founding resolutions of the Commission will provide a prime opportunity to further build on the experience it has gained and further enhance its support to countries emerging from conflict.

88. In this context, the role of the Organizational Committee needs to be reassessed, given the need for overall strategic vision and guidance for the work of the Commission.

Annex I

Membership of the Organizational Committee and its Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone configurations

Organizational Committee

1 January 2009-31 December 2010[a]

Algeria
Bangladesh
Benin
Burkina Faso
Canada
Chile
China
El Salvador
France
Georgia
Germany
Guinea-Bissau
India
Jamaica
Japan
Luxembourg
Mexico
Morocco
Nepal
Netherlands
Nigeria
Pakistan
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
South Africa
Sweden
Thailand
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay

Additional members of the Burundi configuration (in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))

Belgium
Burundi
Croatia
Democratic Republic of the Congo

[a] Some terms of membership will expire prior to 31 December 2010 subject to the duration of membership or in accordance with special arrangements previously agreed upon by the organs/groups from which membership is drawn.

Denmark

Egypt

Kenya

Norway

Rwanda

Switzerland (Chair of the configuration)[b]

Uganda

United Republic of Tanzania

African Development Bank

African Union

East African Economic Community

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic Community of Central African States

Executive Representative of the Secretary-General

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

International Conference on the Great Lakes Region

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region

Additional members of the Central African Republic configuration (in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))

Angola

Belgium (Chair of the configuration)

Cameroon

Central African Republic

Chad

Congo

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Gabon

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Special Representative of the Secretary-General

United Nations Development Programme

[b] Beginning on 1 July 2009 and following the resignation of the Permanent Representative of Sweden.

African Development Bank

African Union

Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale

Economic Community of Central African States

Economic Commission for Africa

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

Additional members of the Guinea-Bissau configuration (in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))

Angola

Brazil (Chair of the configuration)

Cape Verde

Gambia

Ghana

Guinea

Guinea-Bissau

Italy

Mozambique

Niger

Portugal

Sao Tome and Principe

Senegal

Spain

Timor-Leste

African Development Bank

African Union

Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

Economic Community of West African States

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

Representative of the Secretary-General

Union économique et monétaire ouest africaine

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Additional members of the Sierra Leone configuration (in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))[c]

Austria

Brazil

Egypt

Ghana

Guinea

Ireland

Italy

Liberia

Portugal

Sierra Leone

African Development Bank

African Union

Central Bank of West African States

Commonwealth

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic Community of West African States

Executive Representative of the Secretary-General

International Organization for Migration

Mano River Union

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Participants in all meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission (in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))

International Monetary Fund

World Bank

European Community

Organization of the Islamic Conference

[c] The Permanent Representative of Canada is chairing the configuration, beginning on 25 February 2009, and following the resignation of the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands.

Annex II

Chronology of the work of the Organizational Committee

Formal meetings

2008

23 June

Election of the Chairperson and other officers

2009

7 January

Employment and income-generation and private sector development in post-conflict countries; election of the Chairperson and other officers

25 February

Election of officers

29 June

Election of officers

Informal meetings

2008

15 September

Programme of work and way forward; quarterly briefing on the Peacebuilding Fund operations

29 October

Enhancing cooperation with UNDP

19 November

Employment/income generation and private sector development in post-conflict countries: case studies and their core elements; briefing on the preparation for the review of the terms of reference of the Peacebuilding Fund; briefing on the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on post-conflict peacebuilding and early recovery

17 December

Preparation for the review of the terms of reference of the Peacebuilding Fund; preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on post-conflict peacebuilding and early recovery; quarterly briefing on Peacebuilding Fund operations

2009

25 February

Follow-up to the Peacebuilding Commission retreat of 6 and 7 February 2009; update on the preparations for the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict

18 March

Implications of the global financial crisis for countries emerging from conflict; capacity of the Peacebuilding Commission to fulfil its resource mobilization mandate

29 April

Briefing by the Director of the Rule of Law Unit on United Nations rule of law assistance and coordination strategy in Peacebuilding Commission countries; initiatives aimed at enhancing the visibility of the Peacebuilding Commission and resource mobilization efforts; annual reporting cycle of the Peacebuilding Commission; quarterly briefing on operations of the Peacebuilding Fund

27 May

Update by the Peacebuilding Support Office on the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict

29 June

Election of the Permanent Representative of Switzerland as the new Chair of the Burundi configuration

Annex III

Chronology of the work of the Burundi configuration

Informal meetings

2008

12 December

Discussions on the developments in the peace process with the participation of Charles Nqakula, Facilitator of the Burundi peace process. The conclusions of the Burundi configuration (PBC/3/BDI/1) called for urgent international support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and recommended that the Government develop a longer-term strategy for the sustainable socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants and internally displaced persons

2009

4 February

Second biannual review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi

19 March

Update on the latest developments in Burundi; key priorities for the next three months; follow-up to the biannual review of the Strategic Framework

15 April

Update on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process in Burundi; preparation of the thematic meeting on elections; update on the Partners Coordination Group

20 May

Preparations for the visit of the Chair to Burundi (26-28 May 2009); thematic meeting on elections

18 June

Briefing on the visit of the Chair to Burundi of 26-28 May 2009; preparations for the third biannual review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi

Annex IV

Chronology of the work of the Central African Republic configuration

Formal meetings[a]

2008

2 July

Brief on the Chair's upcoming exploratory mission and discussion on the calendar of work

8 October

Presentation by the Government of the Central African Republic on challenges and priorities for peacebuilding in the country

2009

6 May

Formal adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic (PBC/3/CAF/7)

Informal meetings

2008

10 September

Briefing by the Chairperson on his exploratory mission to Bangui; presentation by the Peacebuilding Support Office of a background paper on the situation in the Central African Republic

22 October

Thematic discussion on (a) security sector reform; and (b) good governance and the rule of law; discussion on the preparations for the upcoming field visit to the Central African Republic

10 December

Discussion on the report of the mission of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Central African Republic; thematic discussion on the establishment of development hubs

[a] The agenda and summary record of formal meetings are available on the website of the Commission (www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding).

2009

7 January

Presentation and discussion of the Peacebuilding Support Office document on mapping of resources and gaps; discussion on the draft outline of the strategic framework for peacebuilding in the Central African Republic

18 February

Presentation of the country's draft strategic framework for peacebuilding by a representative of the Government of the Central African Republic.

11 March

Discussion with outgoing Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic, François Lonseny Fall

23 March

Informal adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic

17 June

Briefing by the Chairperson on his mission to the Central African Republic; discussion with the incoming Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Central African Republic, Sahle-Work Zewde

Annex V

Chronology of the work of the Guinea-Bissau configuration

Formal meetings

2008

1 October

Adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau

Informal meetings

2008

30 June

Thematic discussion of the issue of energy in Guinea-Bissau

3 September

Update on the political situation in Guinea-Bissau; discussion on the finalization of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau

17 September

Briefing on the Chair's visit to Guinea-Bissau

21 November

High-level briefing on drug trafficking as a security threat in West Africa, by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

2009

25 March

Discussion on recent political developments in the country; preparations for the presidential elections; developments in security sector reform

9 April

A briefing from the Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau

15 April

Discussion on security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau

11 May

Briefing on the Chair's visit to Guinea-Bissau and her participation in the Praia conference on security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau

22 June

Briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on his visit to the country; briefing by the Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau

Annex VI

Chronology of the work of the Sierra Leone configuration

Formal meetings

2008

15 December

Biannual review of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework

2009

10 June

High-level Special Session on Sierra Leone

Informal meetings

2008

21 November

High-level briefing on drug trafficking as a security threat in West Africa by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

2009

29 April

Briefing on the Chair's visit to Sierra Leone

Annex VII

Chronology of the work of the Working Group on Lessons Learned

2008

20 October

The role of the United Nations in rule of law assistance

24 November

Regional approaches to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Great Lakes region of Africa

15 December

Development of national capacity after conflict

2009

30 March

Collaboration and coordination between the Peacebuilding Commission and regional and subregional organizations

28 May

Sustainable community-based reintegration in post-conflict situations